



MEETING MINUTES / 16 OCTOBER 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell (telephone), Stewart, Armbruster, Bradley, Lardizzzone, Lopez, McMullen, Newstadt (telephone), Sarg, Seppala **66.6%**

Excused: Armbruster, Baldwin, Johnson, Magner

Unexcused: Newman

Guests: Liz Byers-Jiron, Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Dave Skocik (Delaware Veterans Coalition), Kim McMullen, Brendan Mackie (Sen Coons), Nakiesha Dickerson (Heartland Hospice)

CHAIRWOMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Chairwoman Showell dialed in from an out of state conference to open the meeting with the pledge of allegiance

Requested moment of silence for veterans and deployers

Presented Commissioner Farley with gift in gratitude for his service as Chairman for two years

Commissioner Farley then presented Commissioner Sarg with a gift in gratitude for his previous service as Chairman for two years

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzzone and Sarg

At this point, Chairwoman Showell signed off and Vice Chair Stewart convened the meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director (telephone)

Not present

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nakiesha Dickerson, Volunteer Coordinator, Heartland Hospice

The Newark location is seeking veterans who require hospice service

Also seeking veteran volunteers to meet with veteran patients

- Veterans can relate to one another through this program

- Fingerprints and background checks are required for volunteers

- Provided a "Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer Program" handout for further clarification (Newstadt) Does Medicare, Medicaid, or Tricare cover hospice?

No

Liz Byers-Jiron

Stand Down was successful with 1142 attendees, of which 46 were homeless veterans

- The homeless veterans are scheduled for transitional housing
- Next year's date is 20 September 2019
 The costs was approximately \$10K and supported 150 organizations
 Pat Cerchio
 Womens' monument dedication is 3 November / 1200
 Veterans' Parade, for all veterans, begins at 1000
- Must register to participate
 - Women veteran license plates will be available
 - - Must have DD 214 and vehicle registration

Dave Skocik

Emphasized that woman veteran license plates will be available during the 3 November events
 Two World War II woman veterans will be in attendance
 Continuing to promote the Trust Fund Dinner
 Vietnam War Presentation, Public Archives, Saturday, 20 October 1300 – 1600
 (Newstadt) Can woman veteran license plates be transferred to surviving family members?
 Would have to check with DMV

Dave Rich

HIRE Veteran Medallion Program

- Recognizes employer efforts to recruit, employ, and retain veterans
- Initial award winner's names will be release on Veterans Day
- Medallion indicate veteran friendly employer
- Medallion is on Department of Labor website and renewed annually
- Delaware will have two companies included on the initial release

Promoting Entrepreneur Programs

- Seeking employers seeking apprentices

Tuskegee Airmen Recognition Event

- Saturday, 17 November / 1100, CHEER Center, Georgetown
 - Honoring newly discovered Sussex County Tuskegee Airman, Sgt Artishia Stephens
- (Sarg) Are you familiar with programs translating military job to civilian jobs?
 ONET and other programs translate

Brendan Mackie

Introduced self

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 54

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 22

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Dover AFB Retiree Appreciation Day is 20 October

- Free flu shots
 - Presentations, from 10 carriers, for new dental plans (due to Delta Dental discontinuation of military retirees)
 - - Check with your dentist on which plans they accept
- Delaware Veterans Home dental suite project
- \$3M project

- \$200K from the state for research
- Three dental chair facility

Delaware Veterans Home now has a salary retention pay program for members staying over two years

- There is also referral (another employee) pay

Camp Lejeune compensation document was presented during the VA Community Partners meeting
Griswold Home Care, primarily New Castle County, is seeking employee

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

General Assembly is not in session

Urged commissioners to consult with organizations for legislative items/concerns by 20 November

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 8; Granted 6 (75%); Awarded \$4,476.10; Balance - \$55,565.00

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

21 Sep: Chapter 201 sponsored POW/MIA events throughout the base

21 Sep: Chapter provided members to assist during Veterans Stand Down

7 – 13 Oct: AFSA Legislative Awareness Week, providing 2018 legislative platform information, past successes, and awareness on pending legislation

18 Oct / 1030: Chapter meeting

21 Sep: Attended Veterans Stand Down

21 Sep: Attended Dover AFB POW/MIA Ceremony

8 Oct: Attended Executive Committee meeting

12 Oct: Attended Dover AFB Bridge Dedication

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

New National Commander, Rege Riley

Post 2 thanked Senator Pettyjohn and Representative Briggs-King for helping to get the parking lot paved

15 Sep: Post 2 hosted successful membership appreciation (including pig roast) event

28 Sep: Post 2's first golf outing at Mulligans Point, Georgetown

13 Oct: Post 2 hosted AmVets state meeting

26 Oct: Ladies Auxiliary is hosting third annual Trunk or Treat

- Halloween party is scheduled for 27 Oct

12 Nov / 1000 – 1200: Veterans Town Hall sponsored by Senator Pettyjohn

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

29 Sep: Attended Friends of Delaware Veterans Home meeting

12 Oct: Attended Dover AFB Bridge Dedication

18 Oct: Attended DAV Seminar at Camden headquarter

18 – 19 Oct: Attended annual Department Service Officer's Certification Training

Reappointed to Commission through 2022

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Reminder that Delaware has systems to ensure veterans are not homeless for long

- Trust fund addresses homelessness by paying rent, security deposits, etc.

Toys for Tots season is beginning, mention during organization fundraising / social events

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

18 Sep: Attended Kent County Economic Summit

21 Sep: Attended Veterans Stand Down

24 Sep: Attended Delaware Veterans Coalition meeting

26 Sep: Attended Friends of Delaware Veterans Home meeting

27 Sep: Attended Delaware Veterans Home admissions meeting

27 Sep: Attended University of Delaware ROTC/CC meeting

28 Sep: Attended Wilmington VAMC dental clinic ribbon cutting ceremony

1 Oct: Attended Brain Injury Council meeting

8 Oct: Attended Executive Committee meeting

9 Oct: Attended Delaware Employment First Oversight Commission meeting

11 Oct: Attended Veterans Community Partnership meeting

11 Oct: Attended University of Delaware Army ROTC/CC meeting

12 Oct: Attended Representative Jaques Delaware National Guard Medal Presentation

15 Oct: Attended Delaware Council for Persons with Disabilities Luncheon

Via Brain Injury Association of Delaware, pursuing a TBI Registry for Delaware

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

29 Sep: Chapter 9377, New Castle, collected \$900.00 from their viola fundraiser at Acme, Lantana Square, Hockessin

- Monies will be used during the holiday season at the Wilmington VAMC

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

11 Oct: Panelist for “Warrior to Workplace” discussion sponsored by Delaware Decision Makers

17 Oct: At Fort Lee, VA meeting Virginia State Chamber concerning veteran job fairs

- Met with head of State Chamber, Michael Quaranta, on veteran internships

7 Dec: Pearl Harbor Memorial dedication in Smyrna, no additional details

Conducted one-day workshops for Wesley, WilmU, Del Tech, and Goldey Beacom on veteran internships

3 Nov: Scheduled keynote speaker for trust fund dinner

10 Nov: Scheduled guest speaker for First State Military Academy Marine Ball

11 Nov: Participating in Veterans Day ceremonies at Norfolk Naval Base

Delivered Trust Fund briefing to Lewes Rotary

Scheduled meeting with Wilmington Mayor to discuss veterans in trade initiatives

Concerned about service officer scheduling at Wilmington VAMC

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Maj General Timmons announce retirement as DNG Adjutant General effective March 2019

- Brig General Berry named as replacement

Brig General Wendy Wenke is the new Air TAG

12 Oct: Representative Jaques received National Guard Association of United States Charles Dick award

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)
Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

21 Oct: Attended Delaware Veterans Stand Down

12 Nov: Father Dan Gerres (DEARNG Chaplain, Ret) and I are Co-Chairs for “Salute the Veterans” event at Cokebury Village

- Hockessin retirement community with 85 veterans
- Generals Vavala and Wiley are speaking

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

20 Sep: Attended meeting and set-up for Veterans Stand Down

21 Sep: Coordinated Service Provider Registration for Veterans Stand Down

3 Oct: Conducted the Executive Board and General Membership Meetings for DelVets Post 2

11 Oct: Co-Chaired the Veteran’s Day Parade Committee meeting

12 Oct: Attended the SrA Elizabeth Loncki Bridge Dedication Ceremony

15 Oct: Co-Chaired the Veteran’s Day Parade Committee meeting

20 Oct: Participating in Monster Mile Walk

1 Nov: Scheduled to brief 3 November events at Dover Capital Rotary Club

Continues to work Women Veterans Monument plans

- Lapel pins are available for female veterans
- Books are available for female veterans

DelVets Post 1 is sponsoring Toys for Tots

Redner’s receipts for DelVets Post 2 will provide 1% returns for benevolent fund

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Continues to work with student veterans

TERM COMPLETION:

Lardizzone: 21 October 2018 (was reappointed)

EVENTS:

18 Oct / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces, Adams State Service Center, Georgetown

20 Oct / 0800: Retiree Appreciation Day, The Landings Club, Dover AFB

23 Oct / 1415: Operational Excellence Award, Bear Veterans Cemetery

3 Nov / 0930: Veterans Parade, Loockerman Street, Dover

3 Nov / 1200: Womens Veterans Memorial Dedication, Legislative Hall

11 Nov / 1030: Veterans Day Ceremony, Delaware Memorial Bridge Park

11 Nov / 1230: Gold Star Families Monument Dedication, Delaware Memorial Bridge Park

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

By Laws Review Committee Selection

- Commissioner Stewart was appointed chair
- Commissioners Seppala, Baldwin, and Lopez are committee members

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Commissioner Newstadt mentioned the Jewish War Veterans (Delaware) is defunct but will continue hosting charitable events supporting veterans

SPECIAL SESSION:

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 20 November 2018 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs